

REMARKS

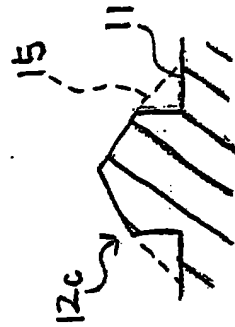
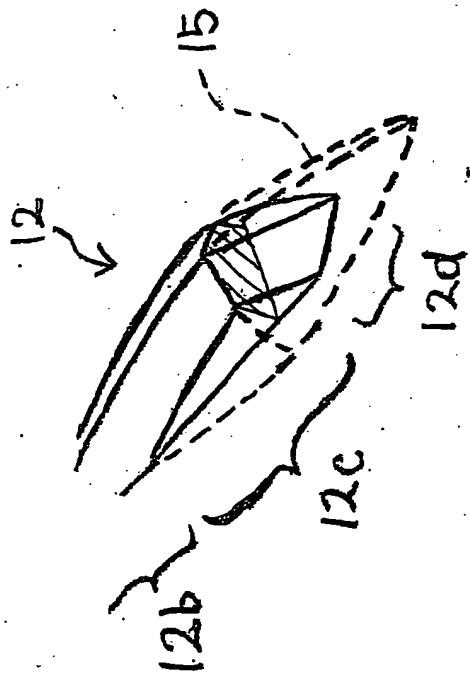
In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Furuyama (JP 2003254439 A). Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nishigaki (U.S. Pat. No. 6,276,691).

As to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claim 1 has been amended to include clarifying amendments only. The substance of claim 1 remains the same. However, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should now be withdrawn.

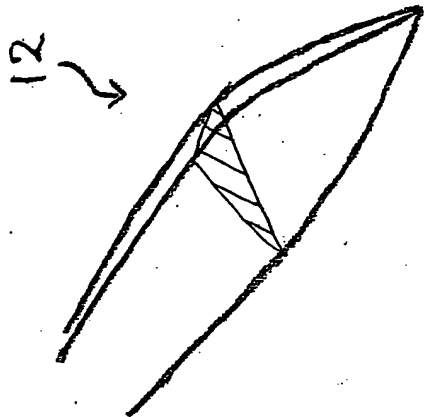
As to the two rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the Examiner's attention is directed to the words in claim 1 that the "portion of the first screw projections having a cross section of a nearly pentagonal shape formed on parallel extending side walls terminating at a triangular shaped apex." As shown in the attached drawings, each of the cross-sections of the screw projections of Furuyama and Nishigaki is a triangular shape, not "a nearly pentagonal shape". Also, the projections of the cited references do not have any "parallel extending side walls".

Please review the following annotated drawings clearly showing the distinction between the prior art and the present invention as set forth in claim 1:

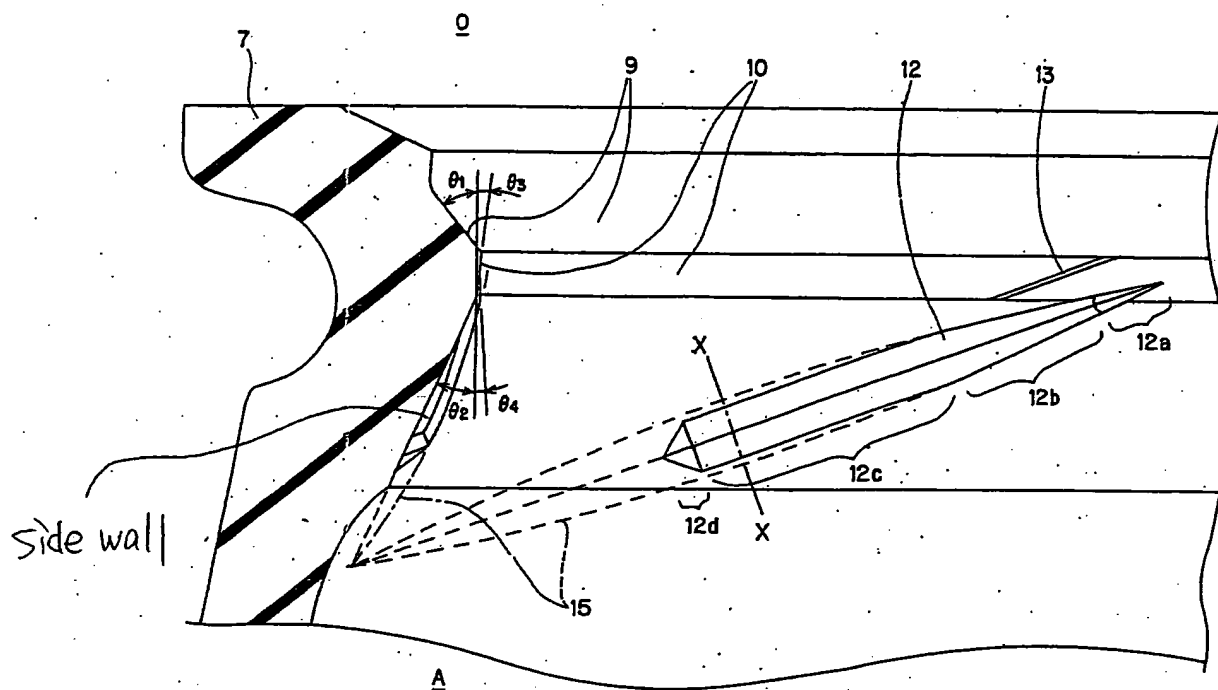
(A) present invention



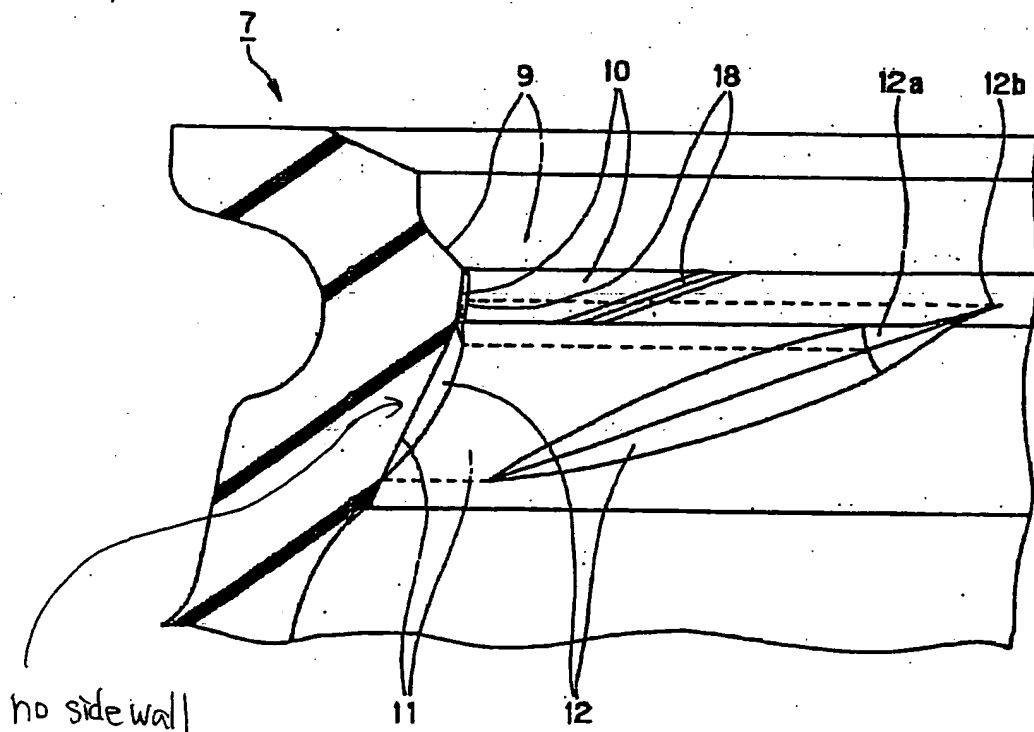
(B) Furuyama



(A) present invention



B) Furuyama



Nishigaki

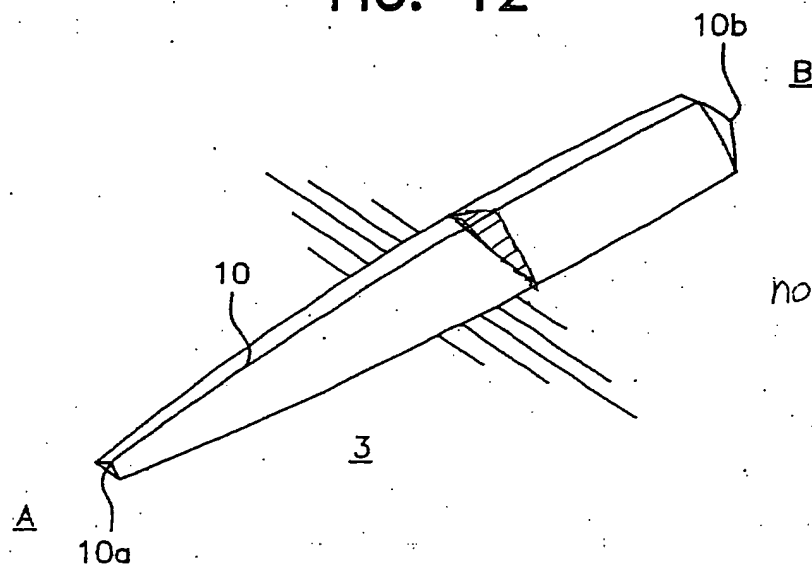
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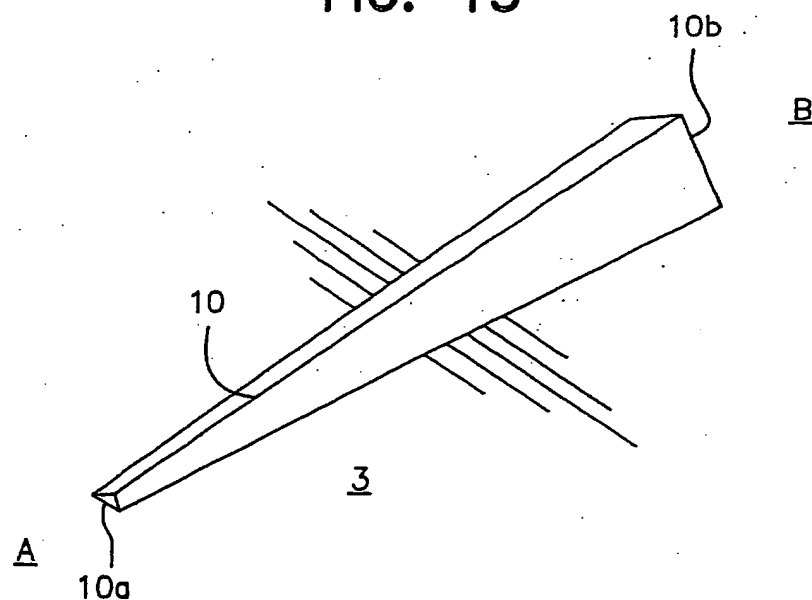
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FIG. 12



no parallel extending
side walls

FIG. 13



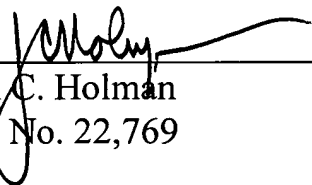
Accordingly, in the absence of a teaching of “a cross section of a nearly pentagonal shape formed of parallel extending side walls terminating at a triangular shaped apex” as claimed in claim 1, shown in Figure 3 and discussed at page 14, lines 24-26 of the specification, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claim in the present application, as it now stands, patentably distinguishes over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and is, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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